

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system which facilitates electronic shopping, comprising:
a graphical image component residing on a user interface; and
a shopping basket component associated with the graphical image component, the shopping basket component being programmed to provide drag and drop capabilities wherein a user may drag and drop representations of identified items from a plurality of sources using a computer pointer into the graphical image and descriptions of the items will be retained by the shopping basket component.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising an ordering component for identifying items retained by the shopping basket component, the ordering component providing for concurrent ordering of the identified items from the respective sources of the identified items.
3. The system of claim 1, the identified items from the plurality of sources having a common schema associated with the descriptions of the items.
4. The system of claim 3, the common schema being an XML schema.
5. The system of claim 1, the user interface being an Internet browser.
6. The system of claim 5, the Internet browser and the shopping basket component residing on a client computer.
7. The system of claim 1, the user interface being a desktop of a client computer and the shopping basket component being a desktop application associated with the graphical

image.

8. An item identifying system, comprising:
a wish list for listing at least one item of interest; and
a second component which conducts a search for sources providing the item of interest and returns search results based on identified items for sources providing the item of interest.

9. The system of claim 8, the second component being a search engine.

10. The system of claim 8, further comprising a filter system associated with the search engine, the filter system operable to limit the number of potential sources of identified items of interest.

11. The system of claim 8, further comprising a shopping basket component associated with the system wherein at least one of the identified items may be retained by the shopping basket component.

12. An item identifying system, comprising:
a first component for listing at least one item of interest; and
a second component associated with a potential source of the item of interest which accesses the first component for the listing of items of interest, the second component determining if the potential source can provide the at least one item of interest.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a third component adapted to be associated with one of a desktop application and browser, the third component provided for receiving from the second component a description associated with the at least one item of interest, the description providing an association between the at least one item of interest and a source thereof.

14. The system of claim 13, further comprising an ordering component for ordering the at least one item of interest from the potential source.

15. The system of claim 12, the first component being a wish list and the second component being an application program.

16. The system of claim 12, further comprising a filter system associated with the second component, the filter system operable to limit the number of potential sources from accessing the first component for the listing of items of interest.

17. The system of claim 12, further comprising a shopping basket component associated with the identifying system wherein the shopping basket component is programmable by the second component such that the second component adds a description associated with at least one identified item of interest from the source matching at least one item of interest of the listing of the first component to the shopping basket component.

18. A method for facilitating electronic shopping, comprising:
relating items with descriptions corresponding to each item, the descriptions conforming to a common schema;
providing a representation of each item at a respective source; and
linking the representation of each item to a respective description of each item.

19. The method of claim 18, the common schema being an XML schema.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising associating a shopping basket component with a graphical image on a user interface, the shopping basket component having drag and drop capabilities wherein a user may drag and drop a provided representation of an item of each item using a computer pointer into the graphical image and the corresponding

least one item of interest in the electronic wish list to the electronic shopping basket list.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising a step of associating the electronic shopping basket list with a graphical image on one of a desktop application and browser on a client computer.

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising a step of ordering concurrently a plurality of identified items retained by the electronic shopping basket list.

29. The method of claim 26, the step of providing access to information in the wish list comprising the steps of querying an application program interface coupled to the wish list and receiving the information from the application program interface based on the query.

30. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 26.

31. A computer readable medium having computer-executable components comprising:

a graphical image component residing on a user interface; and

a shopping basket component associated with the graphical image component wherein the shopping basket component provides drag and drop capabilities wherein a user may drag and drop representations of identified items from a plurality of sources using a computer pointer into the graphical image and descriptions of the identified items will be retained by the shopping basket component.

19